

PUGET SOUND nearshore PROJECT



A partnership between the citizens and governments of the State of Washington and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other federal agencies.

Overview of Puget Sound Nearshore Project

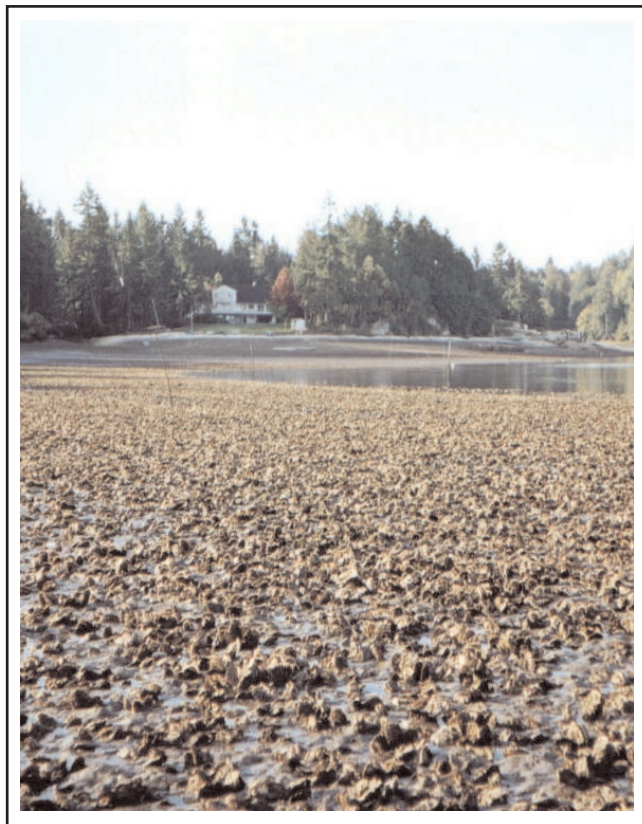
The Puget Sound Nearshore project is a cooperative effort among government organizations, tribes, industries, and environmental organizations to preserve and restore the health of the Sound's nearshore that runs from the bluffs on the land to approximately 30 feet deep into the waters of the Sound.

A General Investigation Reconnaissance Study conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2000 identified a direct link between properly functioning (healthy) nearshore habitat and the physical condition of the shoreline. The study identified four areas that need restoration and improvement:

- Restoring shoreline processes to a more natural state,
- Providing beaches with essential sand and gravel materials,
- Removing, moving, and modifying artificial structures (bulkheads, rip rap, etc.), and
- Using alternative measures to protect shorelines from erosion.

Creation of the Puget Sound Nearshore Project

In 2001, diverse organizations agreed to a collaborative approach to ecosystem restoration and protection and committed support and resources to the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project.



Timeline	1999	2001	2005	2008	Duration of Project
Project Phase/Stage	Reconnaissance Study	General Investigation Assessment Stage I: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt technical framework and conceptual model Access existing information Stage II: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify needed information Conduct field studies Develop project criteria Stage III: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify restoration and protection projects Begin developing and issuing permits for programmatic priorities 	Engineering and Design	Construction – General	Maintenance (Monitoring)

Requirements for a Successful Project

In order to successfully restore and preserve the nearshore, a comprehensive and coordinated approach that is proportional to the magnitude of the tasks is needed now.

The Puget Sound Nearshore Project is a collaborative partnership among the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, tribes, other state and federal agencies, environmental organizations, local governments, and industries.

The partnership is committed to solving nearshore problems together, and it knows that the individual organizations have been unable to remedy the deterioration alone.

The nearshore project team has rapidly gained support and acknowledgement from industry and environmental groups who recognize the importance of the team's efforts and the promise of success.

In 1999 Congress authorized the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to do a general investigation of the nearshore with funds appropriated for the study in the Water Resources Development Act of 2000.

We need continued support to restore the Puget Sound Nearshore.



Preserving and Restoring the Environmental Puget Sound Nearshore

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife have entered into a 50/50 cost share agreement, and with the cooperation of a multitude of agencies and organizations have initiated a general investigation study. This investigation has allowed scientists and engineers to begin to assess and identify ecosystem restoration and protection opportunities while developing criteria to set priorities and develop projects in the Puget Sound nearshore environment.

Concurrently, the Puget Sound and Adjacent Waters Project that Congress authorized in the 2000 Water Resource Development Act provides a means to begin funding construction of critical habitat restoration and protection projects.

Nearshore 2002 Requests

Request to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to:

- Provide adequate funding to the Puget Sound Nearshore Project, including an additional \$800,000 in federal fiscal year 2002 to implement stage one of the Project Management Plan, and
- Support the Puget Sound Nearshore Project as a major habitat restoration project of national significance.

Petition to the President and United States Congress to:

- Provide \$1.2 million in fiscal year 2003 to continue the feasibility phase of the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project, and
- Provide \$2 Million in fiscal year 2003 to begin construction of nearshore habitat projects under the Puget Sound and Adjacent Waters authorization.

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